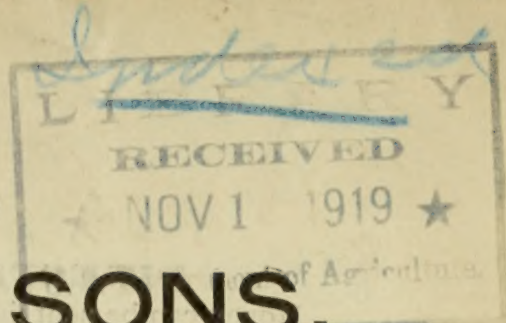


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FALL LIST OF

THOMPSON'S SONS,

RIO VISTA, VA.



The above is an illustration of the Carrie Strawberry.

COSHOCTON, OHIO, October 6, 1896.

Thompson's Sons: Prof. W. J. Green, of the Ohio Experimental Station, has visited me twice lately and he advises me to try a few of the Carrie Strawberries, as he thought they were going to prove an improvement on the Haverland.

M. J. SCHOOT.

SPRINGFIELD, MASS., October 1, 1896.

Thompson's Sons: The Carrie and Darling Strawberry plants at hand, and are very fine plants, indeed.

F. H. PLUMB, *Horticultural Editor Farm and Home.*

DIRECTIONS FOR SENDING MONEY.

Money can be sent in New York drafts, express money-orders, post-office orders and registered letters, but where post-office orders are sent have your post-master make them payable at Richmond, Va., as Rio Vista is not a money-order office. Telegraph us Rio Vista, via Richmond, Va.

For the fall of 1896 and spring of 1897 we offer the following new varieties of strawberries :

CARRIE.—A seedling of Haverland ; has been thoroughly tested North, East, South and West. It is nine years since we introduced the parent, and we are proud that it stands so high ; one grower reported to us this season that his Haverland produced 500 bushels to the acre. We offered \$100 for years for 100 plants of any new variety that would surpass the Haverland ; we have at last found it by the reports. The CARRIE is firmer, better color, and better shipper—fully as productive. Our prices for the fall of 1896 were made \$10 per dozen, but owing to the dull times many of our customers say the price is too high, so we have decided to make the price within the reach of all, viz : \$2 per dozen for spring and fall of 1897, and \$1 per dozen for spring and fall of 1898 ; and these plants are sold with the distinct understanding that those who buy to sell again agree to sell at these prices.

This year we had a much better chance to test it more thoroughly, and can say that we could not discover a weak point in Carrie. It is larger, firmer, better color, and fully as productive as the parent, if not more so. We were so enthusiastic over it that we dug up two plants with all the dirt adhering to the plants we could put with them in a box. The weight was just a trifle less than one hundred pounds. We sent them to Professor Heiges, Chief of the Division of the Pomological Department, of Washington, D. C. This is our answer :

Thompson's Sons: Yours of the 27th and the two plants of Carrie strawberry were received this morning. Professor Heiges is out of the city for several days, and I therefore opened the box and examined the specimens. The Carrie bears quite a strong resemblance to Haverland, but is apparently a firmer berry, and is perhaps larger than Haverland. * * The two plants will be put out by Mr. Saunders, and we will watch them during the summer.

Very truly,

WM. A. TAYLOR, Ass't Pomologist.

HINGHAM COUNTY, MASS.

Friend Thompson: I am much pleased with Rio, and think it has come to stay. Carrie (p) was grown in house until the season allowed of placing in cold frame ; all fruit-buds were pinched off, and I intended to forego the pleasure of fruiting until next year, but the three plants by May 25th were the largest on the place, and this on poor soil, and had pushed out more fruit-buds. So, as it was so persistent, I allowed it to fruit. Now, of course, three plants fruited in a small way is no fair test, but the result delighted me. So far the plant is better than Haverland ; the fruit is larger, of better color, and firmer. Have I said too much, with a trial of three plants?

F. W. ROGERS.

No, friend Rogers, your report corresponds just exactly with ours, and is as we wrote you. Carrie is, if we are not mistaken, the best berry ever sent out up to this time.

HINGHAM COUNTY, December 13, 1895.

Friend Thompson: The Carrie plants stooled and did not make as many plants as I wished. The plants are very large and free from rust. I shall set two beds in the spring, one on heavy and the other on sandy soil. Strawberry men in this vicinity are very much interested in this variety, and are waiting anxiously for you to put it out.

F. W. ROGERS.

Friend Rogers: The reason your plants did run so much was removing them so many times. The Carrie, with us, will make more than the parent.

This berry is now on trial at thirty different places, but no one has any of their own nor can they sell any. Contrary to our usual custom, not less than one dozen plants will be sent to any one this fall or next spring, and it is distinctly understood that no one can sell or give any of these plants away, nor exchange any for any less during the years of 1896 or 1897, under a forfeiture of \$500, payable to Messrs. Thompson's Sons ; and furthermore, no plants will be sent out except by us during 1896 and 1897, and same will contain our seal for protection. It will be

a great pleasure if any of our friends ever hear of any one selling or offering any in any other way. Plants ready after August 1, 1896. The trade will be supplied by us direct with their tags, to which we will attach our seal, so the parties who buy can come back on us for genuine and good arrivals.

The following is the report of the Ohio Experimental Station for 1896 by Professor W. J. Green:

Of new varieties about to be introduced none pleases me better than Carrie, sent here by M. T. Thompson. It resembles the Haverland, but is an improvement upon that variety in size, color and firmness, and seems equal to it in prolificacy. If this judgment is correct, it will prove to be an exceedingly valuable variety, and will displace the Haverland, for this variety is too soft and rather too light in color. It has the same fault as the Haverland, of long fruit stems, and the berries lie out in the row, and are liable to be trampled on by the pickers. While this is a fault, it must be acknowledged that berries of this class are easily seen and more likely to be picked clean than those having short fruit stems. The price of plants will be almost prohibitive at first, but it will pay growers to keep close watch of Carrie.

TRIAL GROUNDS OF THE RURAL NEW YORKER FOR 1896:

CARRIE (p), from Thompson's Sons, Rio Vista, Va., April, 1895—June 2—ripening, conical shaped, medium sized, scarlet color, moderately firm. June 4—berries large, vines extremely productive. June 8—very productive, berries rest upon the ground. June 10—height of season. June 19—a fair quantity of ripe and green berries still.

What more good qualities can anyone desire than the above. After fruiting seventeen days, still a fair quantity of ripe and green berries.

REPORT OF GEORGE F. BEEDE, NEW HAMPSHIRE:

CARRIE—seedling of Haverland—large, long conical, bright scarlet, good quality, moderately firm, large plants, very vigorous, very productive, promising.

MONT COUNTY, MO., June 18 1896.

Friend Thompson: I can say that Carrie strawberry acquitted herself finely here. It is about the finest of all the new ones fruiting here for the first time, and when you are ready to send it out it will have my endorsement.

JUDGE SAMUEL MILLER.

ERIE COUNTY, N. Y., July 4 1896.

M. T. Thompson: The Carrie strawberry you sent me last year has pleased me greatly and proved to be, as I believe, one of the best strawberries I have ever grown. The plant is large, a strong grower, vigorous and very productive of large, well-colored and beautiful berries, exceeding in size of plant and berry the Haverland, and is a long-season berry. I congratulate you upon being the originator of so valuable a berry.

Allow me to allude to some of the other berries you sent. I saved every plant you sent me, while others lost a great many plants that came only a short distance. The Edith is really a wonderful berry and has favorably disappointed me.

V. R. CARY.

P. S.—Yes, friend Cary, we take great pains with our plants the moment they are dug. We do not try to compete with growers who take no care whether their plants grow or not. One of our customers says he could buy a certain variety for \$2 per 1,000; we asked \$4. He sends us \$4 for 1,000; got 2,000 from another party for the same money. He says our 1,000 plants were larger than the 2,000; and nearly every plant grew and gave him a nice stand, while nearly all the other plants died; and he would dig up what plants there were, and reset next year; but did not think he would have enough plants after growing them a year to reset the patch; while 1,000 made him not less than 50,000 to 60,000 plants. It cost money to dig plants when they are grown. Better not depend so much on cheap.

GRANTON, ONT., July 1, 1896.

Dear Friend Thompson: I think much of your seedling Carrie. The plant is all that can be desired—free from rust or blight, berries large and bright, productive, medium in ripening. It is well worth being introduced.

JOHN LITTLE.

GRANTON, ONT., October 1st, 1896.

Dear Friend Thompson: My experience with your seedling Carrie is much

the same as Prof. Green's. If the fruit stems were not so long and a little stronger it would be perfection itself. Where there is such a load of fruit it is impossible for the stems to hold them up.

JOHN LITTLE

TEXAS EXPERIMENTAL COLLEGE STATION, June 20, 1896.

M. T. Thompson: I wish to state that your Carrie strawberry did well with us the past season. It was large and productive.

PROFESSOR R. H. PRICE.

Owing to lack of space we must omit any more testimonials on the Carrie. Could you have seen them on our grounds the past two years you would have exclaimed, "Ain't they grand! I must have some plants," &c.

OUR EARLIEST BERRY.

The first fruit that our appetite craves is the strawberry, and after four years of trial on our own grounds we find our Earliest Berry is the one we have named Earliest. The fame of this berry has spread all over the United States. Wondering if it was as early as Wilson and many other so-named early berries, we can say it is. But it is more productive on two-year and three-year-old beds than new beds. It is the best early berry we know of that is yet introduced. It is ripe and gone by the time many of the so-called early berries have ripened. It is a seedling of Michel's Early, originated in Missouri. It resembles the parent in plant and fruit, but is fully twice as productive and a little larger; a very handsome berry. It will do your eyes good to be looking for strawberries when the first begin to ripen—an odd one here and there; and just step into a row of these and find the ground covered with ripe berries worth 25 to 40 cents per quart. Then have to wait ten days or two weeks for the late ones to ripen and the market all glutted, \$2 per dozen; \$10 per 100.

EQUINOX.

This has so far proved to be the latest strawberry on our grounds for years. It is wonderfully productive.

The New York Experimental Station, of Geneva, N. Y., says: "Fruit medium to large. Among the varieties fruited for the first time this season (1896) this variety ranks second in productiveness."

Our stock of this variety is limited, but we shall make the price only \$1 per dozen; \$5 per 100.

FREE.

In order that our customers may get the latest and earliest strawberry we make this offer: That any one who buys one dozen each of Carrie and Earliest we will send them an equal number of Equinox free.

By having the earliest and latest, seasons being favorable, you can have strawberries from five to six weeks.

PRIDE OF CUMBERLAND.

This new berry came to us last year for the first time. Mr. Frank Gandy, of Cumberland county, N. J., says: "There is nothing to compare with the Pride of Cumberland for general market purposes and profit to the grower, nor have I seen its equal anywhere. The berry is large, solid, and of a deep-red color. It is of fine flavor, double green calix, making it very showy in appearance, while as a shipper it is unexcelled by any berry. During the past season it sold in market from two to four cents higher than Gandy's Pride."

Of new varieties this pleased us very much the past season. It is very productive, carrying an enormous amount of fruit. No one should neglect to plant this berry. We make the price very low: Dozen, 50 cents; 100, \$2. Postage paid.

ENORMOUS.

This berry is gaining friends every year—so much so we could not half fill the demand; but we have a very large stock of plants this year, and will make the price low. You will never regret planting Enormous. Dozen, 30 cents; 100, \$1.25 by mail; 1,000, \$8 by express.

CLYDE.

This new berry, introduced last spring for the first time, has fruited with us some years with the best of satisfaction; but this year it seems to do better than ever. It was simply wonderful. The only thing we can assign for it doing better this year than some others is that the soil was not so rich. It seems to be a berry

with us that requires poorer soil than most varieties, or it runs too much to foliage. Price: Dozen, 50 cents; 100, \$2 50 by mail.

Anyone sending us \$5 we will send them FREE, by mail, twelve plants each of these six-named varieties; fine plants—none better. Or for \$23 we will send 100 of each, postage or express paid by us. No one who is desirous of getting the cream of strawberries should omit this grand offer. Our plants are all fine. Remember, the six varieties are Carrie, Earliest, Equinox, Pride of Cumberland, Clyde and Enormous.

OUR BIG 6 COLLECTION, No. 1,

viz., Rio, Cyclone, Tennessee Prolific, No Name, has the following names attached: Gandy Bell and Isabelle. But the real names should be Isabelle Aroma and Ivanhoe. All six varieties have become standard varieties, and are being planted largely for commercial growers. We will send by mail 12 of each, postage paid, for only \$1.25; 100 of each by express, purchaser paying charges, for \$2 50; 1,000 of each (6,000 in all), nicely packed, for only \$15.

Our New Catalogue for 1897 will be ready about the 1st of January, with fuller descriptions. Owing to the severe drought in the Southern States the past season plants will be scarce and not half enough to supply the demand; so please buy your plants early.

Prices of Strawberries for Fall of 1896 and Spring of 1897.

We never had a finer lot of plants than this year. Where large quantities are wanted of different varieties send your list and we will do the very best we can.

	Doz.	100	1,000		Doz.	100	1,000
Aroma	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$4 00	Michel's Early	\$ 25	\$ 50	\$2 00
Beder Wood	25	50	3 00	Muskingham	25	50	3 00
Burnett	25	50	5 00	Isabelle (No Name) or Gandy	25	0	2 00
Brand wine	25	50	2 50	Belle	25	50	4 00
Beverley	25	50	3 00	Parker Earle	25	50	4 00
Bisel	25	50	3 00	Princess	25	50	3 00
Bubach No. 5	25	50	3 00	Princeton Chief	25	50	2 50
Beecher, H. W.	25	50	4 00	Rio	25	50	3 00
Crescent	25	50	2 00	Sandoval	25	50	3 00
Cumberland	25	50	3 00	Saunders	25	50	3 00
Cyclone	25	50	2 50	Sharpless	25	50	3 00
Eureka	25	50	3 00	Shuster's Gem	25	50	2 50
Gandy	25	50	3 00	Tennessee Prolific	25	50	2 50
Greenville	25	50	2 50	Warfield No. 2	25	50	3 00
Haverland	25	50	2 50	Wolverton	25	50	3 00
Hoffman	25	50	3 00	Omega	25	50	3 00
Jersey Queen	25	50	3 00	Victor Hugo	25	50	3 00
Ivanhoe	25	50	3 00	Shyster	25	50	5 00
Lovett	25	50	2 50	Mary	25	50	3 00
Marshall	25	50	4 00	Sunny Side	25	50	3 00

We pay postage on dozen lots. If 100 lots are wanted by mail add 20 cents per 100 to pay postage; 1,000 lots go by Express, purchaser paying charges.

NEWER VARIETIES.

	Doz.	100	1,000		Doz.	100	1,000
Berlin	\$ 25	\$ 1 00	\$ 5 00	Edith, largest of all	\$ 50	\$2 00	\$15 00
Clyde	50	2 50	20 00	Bismark, fine	50	2 00	15 00
Columbia	25	75	5 00	Wm. Belt, fine	40	2 00	15 00
Sunrise	25	50	5 00	Michigan	40	2 50	15 00
Dew	25	1 00	4 00	Howell's Seedling, fine	1 00	3 00	15 00
Eleanor	25	50	5 00	Williams	25	75	6 00
Enormous	30	1 25	8 00	Glen Mary	75	2 00	15 00
Equinox	1 00	5 00	15 00	Anna Kennedy	40	1 50	15 00
Carrie	2 00	12 00	100 00	Tubbs	25	50	5 00
Earliest	2 00	12 00	100 00	Evans', very fine	1 00	3 00	20 00
Belle	20	75	5 00	Champion of England	30	1 00	15 00
Splendid	25	50	4 00	Pride of Cumberland, very fine	50	2 00	15 00
Lady Thompson	25	50	2 00	Staples	25	1 00	15 00
Weston	25	50	5 00	Ideal	40	2 00	15 00
Murray's Extra Early	25	50	6 00	Orange County	25	50	4 00
Oriole	40	2 00	5 00	Epping	25	50	15 00
Sadie	25	50	5 00	Lanahan	30	75	15 00
Hersey	25	50	3 00	Swindle	25	50	15 00
Van Demen	25	50	3 00	Ocean City	25	1 00	15 00
Erie, Fine	25	50	3 00	Emmel	25	50	4 00
Holland	25	50	3 00	Giant	25	1 50	15 00
Bouncer	25	1 50	15 00				

KING, \$5,000 RED RASPBERRY.

Report of Prof. H. E. Van Demen, Pomologist, Washington, D. C.:

"From Thompson's Sons, Rio Vista, Va. Round, medium size; light crimson color; droops large; few with suture very plainly marked; moderately firm, and of excellent quality. A seedling of Thompson, ripening at about the same time, but larger and more productive."

We would add, this berry the last two years looks very promising. It has a most beautiful dark foliage, and holds its color good. We sent a few berries by mail to J. T. Lovett Company, Little Silver, N. J., June 21, 1893. This is what they say: "The berries received in good condition, which is a very unusual thing for raspberries sent by mail, proving their exceptional firmness. The King is certainly a large and handsome berry. We would like to know more of it."

Mr. Samuel Miller, of Bluffton, Mo., writes that from one plant he had on trial in the fall of 1892, it bore some of the most beautiful red raspberries he had seen for years. We shall watch further developments of this berry with great interest. We have in about one acre now, and this season will give us a fair chance to see what this new-comer may do in Virginia, at least. Should it continue as it has done, it will be what every person will want. It is firm, early, large, and such a beautiful bright scarlet that it catches the eye at sight.

LITTLE SILVER, N. J., July 1, 1893.

M. T. Thompson: It affords me extreme pleasure to be able to make a most favorable report upon the King Raspberry. It was fully ripe here on June 25th. and exceeds in size any red Raspberry I have yet fruited. It is also very handsome, of excellent quality, and exceedingly productive. Although the past winter was one of the most trying ones upon Red Raspberries we have ever experienced the King was not injured in the slightest, even small young canes leafing out to the very tip.

J. T. LOVETT.

Mr. Lovett is a gentleman who knows a good thing when he sees it.

OHIO EXPERIMENTAL STATION, July 29, 1895.

M. T. Thompson: The King Raspberry is a good grower here, and its hardy berries large and fine in appearance, of good quality. We can say nothing of the earliness, but it seems to be a little later than Thompson. It seems to be a very promising variety.

(Prof.) W. J. GREEN.

RICHMOND, VA., July 1, 1896.

Thompson's Sons: The King Red Raspberry as I see brought to this market by you is the finest, largest, brightest color, and sells the best of any Red Raspberry I have ever seen, and I have been growing Raspberries for thirty-five years.

J. W. NIGH (formerly of Piqua, O).

RICHMOND, VA., June 15, 1896.

Thompson's Sons: I have been selling Raspberries in Richmond market ever since the war. I buy nothing but the best and I get the highest prices. Your King Raspberry is the best; sells the best of any I have ever seen; in fact, I hardly know how to praise it enough. The only fault I find is you sell them to everybody and I cannot get what I want.

R. R. CARTER.

It is with the greatest confidence we now offer what we think the most beautiful red raspberry ever sent out. It is the brightest red, most easily picked. While in the past season red raspberries sold at four and five cents per quart, we had more demand for our King than we could furnish at from eight to twenty cents per pint. In the field it was the universal cry with everyone that saw them "This is the finest red raspberry I ever saw. What kind are they? I must have some plants," etc. It is needless for us to say any more. Read a few of the many testimonials we have from the best authorities, North and South. The King originated by our father in Ohio seven years ago, and is succeeding in the North fully as well as in the South. It is the brightest red ever put on the market, and can be sold where other varieties go abegging, and at double the prices. Everybody wants them. The prices will remain the same for two years—viz.: Twelve, \$3; one hundred \$20. One hundred plants, well cared for, in two years will easily make from 5,000 to 10,000 plants. Get your plants this fall if you can. Dozen lots go by mail prepaid; large lots by express.

WATERVILLE, OHIO, June 26, 1896.

Friend Thompson: Your King Raspberry has done remarkably well. It is a good grower, early, bright, firm, productive, and not inclined to crumble. I picked a few ripe berries from it June 7th, a full week ahead of Palmer and Eureka.

W. W. FARNSWORTH (Sec'y Ohio State Hort. Soc'y).

Friends, just think of the best red raspberry yet introduced ripening its fruit one week ahead of black raspberries. June 7th in Ohio is very early. Is this not the raspberry you are looking for?

PARKSLEY, VA., June 24, 1896.

My Dear Friend Thompson: Your letter at hand. You ask me what I have to say about the King Red Raspberry. Having seen it in full bearing in this State, besides many others, reds as well as other classes of raspberries, I am glad to have a chance to say a good word for it. The plant is very healthy and robust, and exceedingly productive. The fruit is as large as any berry of its class that I have seen, and that includes about all the new ones. Its color is very bright for a red variety, and its flavor is equal to that of any of them. My experience with it is that the berry is firm enough to ship to any market in good condition. In season it is among the very early ones. If I was going to set red raspberries extensively or in a small way I would put King in as one of the leaders.

PROFESSOR H. E. VAN DEMAN.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTAL STATION,
SOUTH HAVEN, MICH., July 2, 1896.

M. T. Thompson: I am very favorably impressed as to the vigor, color, size and productiveness of the King Raspberry. T. T. LYON.

How it succeeds at the Experimental Station, Minnesota :

FEBRUARY 12, 1896.

Thompson's Sons: Had King Red Raspberry from you in 1894. A vigorous, healthy plant, producing a good crop of large, bright, red, rather firm berries. Season a little earlier than Cuthbert. Very promising.

SAMUEL B. GREEN, Horticulturist.

A New Red Raspberry.—Mr. M. T. Thompson, of Henrico county, Va., has brought us a basket of his new red raspberry ("The King"), and also a bunch of canes, showing the prolificacy of the variety. The berry is a beautiful light bright red, large in size and full in flavor, and is the best raspberry we have ever seen in the South. The canes are strong and with fine, healthy foliage, and the fruit hangs thick upon them from top to bottom. This berry is certainly an acquisition and bound to be in demand when known.—*Southern Planter, Richmond, Va., July No., 1896.*

OHIO EXPERIMENTAL STATION, WOOSTER, OHIO, July 24, 1896.

M. T. Thompson: The King Raspberry is fine indeed. Large, firm, beautiful color and prolific. It is far ahead of London or Miller here.

PROFESSOR W. J. GREEN.

Is this the kind of raspberry you want, or do you want to continue growing worthless varieties?

TOBACCO DUST.

For market-gardeners, truckers and others we have a fine supply of Tobacco Dust. As the value of this Dust is more known every year, so our trade increases. 100-pound packages, \$1; or in 1,000 or 2,000-pound lots, only \$8 per ton.

5,000,000 CABBAGE PLANTS.

We have now the largest stock of Cabbage Plants we have ever sown, ready to ship at any time.

Thompson's Selected, Early Jersey, Wakefield and Early Flat Dutch only \$2.50 per 1,000; in 10,000 lots, \$20 by express. Charleston, a few days later, much larger and not so liable to crack, \$3 per 1,000; 10,000 lots, \$25. Send your orders in at once. We have never been able to supply the demand in the late spring. 100 by mail, postage paid, only 75 cts.

Remember, and make all post-office orders payable at Richmond, Va., as Rio Vista is not a money-order office.

1,000,000 LETTUCE PLANTS.

We have a large stock of Big Boston outdoors; nine rows. \$2 per 1,000; 5,000, \$8.



ACTUAL SIZE.

KING RED RASPBERRY.

The above is a representation of the "*King*" *Red Raspberry*, the largest, the brightest, most productive, sells in market double the price of others. The best red ever introduced.

LITTLE SILVER, N. J., July 21, 1896.

M. T. Thompson,

My Dear Sir: Your Raspberries are simply wonderful. The *King* is, I believe, the most valuable Red Raspberry that has yet appeared. The other is almost as good. I wish we were in position to control one or both of them.

J. T. LOVETT.

Mr. Lovett is too well known among fruit growers not to be a competent judge. There is scarcely a Raspberry grown but what he has grown; he has fruited this berry for two years on his own grounds. Whilst our price of \$5,000 for the control of this Raspberry seems high, when we consider its value to the general public it is small.